

I am writing to express my concern over pending legislation threatening the ability of independent ISP's to compete. As a user of the internet for more than 10 years I have a great deal of experience to draw upon. I have been a customer of nearly 10 different ISP's in that time, from Earthlink to SBC/Yahoo, Monitor.net to WCO, PeoplePC to Sonic.net. In all of these cases the smaller, independent ISP's have invariably provided better service (speed, availability, uptime features), support (length of wait time, knowledgeability of staff), and an overall better experience for me, the customer. Small ISP's can better cater to the needs of individuals with special needs, particularly the specific needs of small communities. In the case of the local Sonic.net for example, they have been on the forefront of deploying advanced Wireless services in the Sonoma County area, which allows areas not otherwise served by other broadband services to get high speed connections. These technologies are in their infancy and no one technology has proved itself to be the best, so a large company is unlikely to experiment such small volumes, but it is in a local ISP's interest to rollout advanced services and tests as they become available. Small communities that would not otherwise be served by a large ISP are also of greater value to the small provider and will therefore be served better.

Please keep the ISP market open, encourage and support the healthy competition our system of regulated capitalism was founded on, and protect ISP's like my local Sonic.net which provide service and support well above the standard set by the national providers.

Sincerely,
Oshyan Greene